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States. These statutes are so recent that they have not been subject to many adjudications by the courts, and, therefore, the embodiment of these changes in the law in Mr. Walker's book is timely and should be of assistance.

Since the publication of his third edition, some two thousand patent cases have been decided. Very wisely Mr. Walker omitted from his new book all of those decisions which were confined purely to questions of fact, but in the new edition he has included seven hundred recent cases which contain modifications of the patent law.

This edition represents probably the best modern text-book on the law of patents, and is the only treatment of the modern American law of patents. It is concise, well arranged, and contains citation and discussion of all the important cases. It is not so exhaustive as "Robinson on Patents," which was published in 1890, but is, perhaps, for that reason, more useful. It is certainly of value to the profession to have so thorough and well-considered a work confined within the limits of a single volume.

S. H. E. F.

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**A TREATISE ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS OF THE LAW OF REAL PROPERTY.**  
Containing an Outline of all Real-Property Law and more elaborate treatment of the subjects of Fixtures, Incorporeal Hereditaments, Tenures and Allodial Holdings, Uses, Trusts and Powers, Qualified Estates, Mortgages, Future Estates and Interests, Perpetuities, and Accumulations.

By Alfred G. Reeves, Professor of Law in the New York Law School.

Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1904. pp. lxv, 913. 8vo.

In the introductory portion of this book the author discusses the subject of fixtures and other property which may be real or personal according to circumstances, and also gives an outline of the subject of real property, in which he briefly describes the various subdivisions as they are later to be discussed in his treatise. In this outline we learn that the author has divided the whole subject into four main divisions: kinds of real property, holdings of real property, estates in real property, title to real property. The first and second divisions are complete in this volume. Of the third, two subdivisions, according to the classification of the author, estates as to quantity and those as to number and connection of the owners, yet remain undone. The fourth division is not touched upon in this volume. The author, in his preface, however, promises that the parts as yet uncovered will be treated in a continuation to be forthcoming within the next three or four years.

The outline of the treatise is well arranged and makes possible the logical development of the subject, which is a distinguishing merit of the work. His method of presentation is not a compilation of statements of cases, but rather a statement of the law according to his own conclusions. In one respect, however, the work must be considered defective. Points of great importance, but doubtful in the law, the author is often content to cover without a sufficient indication of the uncertainty, and too often without detailed reasoning in support of his own conclusions. A text writer may safely leave much of the reasoning to be supplied by the reader, if the law is stated aptly and with logical sequence; this the author has in the main done exceedingly well. But there are always crucial questions in which the reader may feel at a loss, unless he is himself thoroughly acquainted with the questions. It is in the treatment of these crucial and often doubtful questions, upon the sound elucidation of which so much depends for a comprehension of the logical consistency of the whole, that the reader has a right to expect the writer to lend the aid of his own originality, perception, or investigation. In this we feel that the author has not done himself the justice due to his acquaintance with the subject, of which the soundness of his work furnishes ample evidence. The most striking quality of the book is, perhaps, its uniform and refreshing lucidity. Seldom, indeed, is it wanting in clearness of exposition. Too much, the critic is inclined to feel, cannot be said in commendation of this quality, the lack of which is too often a sadly marring feature in legal text-books of

real excellence in other respects. The book does not purport to contain an exhaustive collection of authorities, but a sufficient number of citations are given to support the development of the work. The New York codifications are added in separate notes, so as to make the treatise of especial value to the New York practitioner. These are not so extensive, however, as to intrude unduly upon the uniformity of the work and are so separated as to justify the hope of the author that the text may be of practical value to those who are not concerned with special New York law. On the whole, the treatise may be considered a contribution of value. Its completion will be awaited with anticipation.

**SELECT CASES BEFORE THE KING'S COUNCIL IN THE STAR CHAMBER.**

Edited for the Selden Society by I. S. Leadam. Being Vol. 16 of the Publications of the Selden Society for 1902. London. 1903. pp. cliv, 339.

The belated volume of the Selden Society for 1902 has appeared, and is as scholarly, if not as generally interesting or valuable, as its predecessors. It serves to illustrate the fundamental departure which the Society has been making of late years — always excepting Mr. Maitland's admirable Year Books — from its original purpose and plan, which was to publish the early materials for legal history. These Star Chamber papers (it is misleading to call them "cases" as neither opinion nor judgment is given, for the best of reasons) are of no legal interest whatsoever, though they possess considerable interest for the social historian, and throw a little light on the nature of an institution which died and left no sign. The Star Chamber was the vermiciform appendix of the King's Council, notable only when inflamed, and excised for the safety of the body politic. Real reports of early cases there decided — and there are many volumes of them in manuscript — would be of legal interest; but a labored study of the institution itself is to the lawyer, at least, mere fruitless antiquarianism. The introductions to the Society's publications were intended to be subordinate to the text. Mr. Leadam's Introduction, fortunately, is the principal feature of the book, and is a masterly essay on the Star Chamber, its history, process and pleadings, composition and jurisdiction; and a comment, historical, social, and genealogical, on the stories told by the papers printed.

To say that this introduction will be warmly welcomed by students of English history in the earlier Tudor times is a moderate statement. It disposes authoritatively of the notion, not lately much urged, that the Court of Star Chamber owed its origin to the Statute of 3 Henry VII. It settles certain other obscure constitutional questions, and it throws valuable light on the social history of the times. But where are the early sources we have been so long promised? The series of ancient rolls would fill a small world; why can we not have printed the rolls of a complete eyre of the fourteenth century, to compare with the Pleas for Gloucester? If not from the unpublished Year Books, then from the rolls let us get an insight into the development of the law in Richard's day. Or if that is asking too much, let us have more Select Civil, Criminal, and Manorial pleas. Can no one but Professor Maitland edit such things?

But it seems ungracious to find fault when such admirable work of its kind is given to us — of a kind, too, which is very probably more generally desired than the strictly legal work. Mr. Leadam's work deserves, and should receive, the warmest commendation.

J. H. B. JR.

**ENGLISH AND INDIAN LAW OF TORTS.** By Ratanlal Ranchhoddas and Dhirajlal Keshavlal. Second Edition. Bombay: The Bombay Law Reporter Office. 1903. pp. civ, 581. 8vo.

The first edition of this work, which appeared in 1897, has apparently been of great service to the profession in India. Its excellence as a general treatise upon the subject combined with its special treatment of Indian cases and the